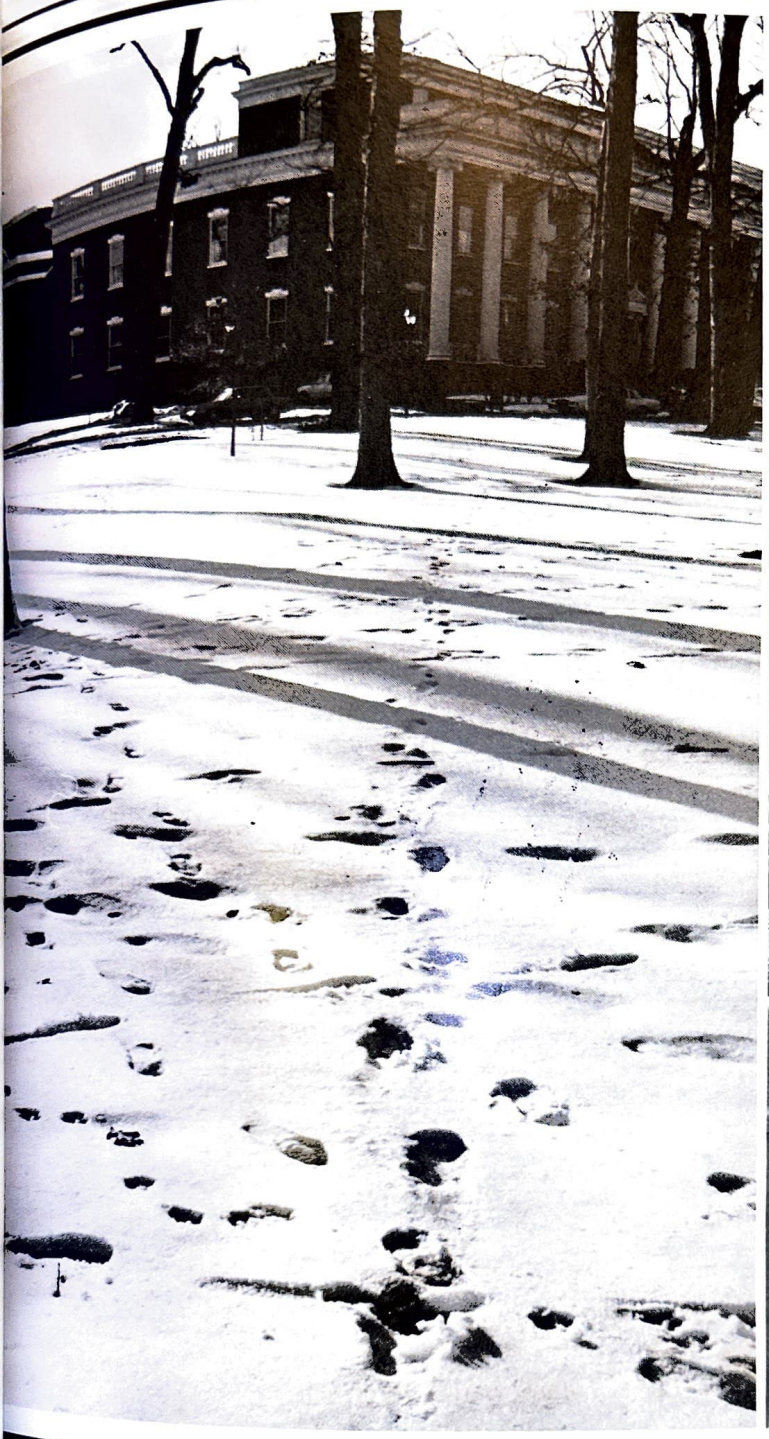

1987
OAK LEAVES
Drew University
Madison, New Jersey

Faculty Housing, Arboretum Set To Square Off

On September 16, the Madison Borough Planning Board approved Drew's plan to build 46 units of moderate income faculty housing on Loantaka Way. The decision came after months of debate concerning the possible environmental effects the construction and occupancy of the housing might have on the neighboring Zuck Arboretum.

Drew found it necessary to build affordable faculty housing because of the extremely high price of living in the Morris County area. With the retirement of any professor, a younger one would likely take his or her place, and not have enough resources to afford ordinary housing close enough to Drew. The unviersity had already purchased the Green Villa apartment building on Green Village Road and begun filling vacancies there with Drew staff members. When completed, the new housing project would give the school enough affordable housing for its faculty. As reported in *The Acorn,* the administration also pointed out that this housing would through a "domino effect" free up on-campus space for student housing.

The site abutting the ecologically sensitive arboretum was chosen after either zoning laws or infeasibility precluded the construction at other sites. Confusion over the boundaries of the preserve had caused much debate, as had concern over whether precautions to protect the area against erosion and pollution would prove effective. The Zuck, which contains Madison's only two natural ponds and a host of valuable trees and plants, was and continued to be an important resource for Drew's life sciences department, as well as for the community in general. Faculty from the biology department as well as others concerned about the ecology of the area, including current residents of Loantaka, were disappointed when the housing project was passed.

The approval also meant that Madison might be able to satisfy its low income housing requirement by building some 12 units adjacent to the faculty housing. Both Drew and Madison promised that all necessary precautions would be taken to ensure that the Zuck Arboretum would not be affected by the housing project(s).

Many opposed to the plan, however, still had their doubts.

-Geoff Handy

WMNJ Remains In Limbo Over Loan

WMNJ-FM, Drew's radio station and largest campus club, spent much of 1986-87 trying to find a solution to a problem that threatened its very existence. Several years earlier, the Federal Communications Commission had announced that all radio stations of less than 100 watts would be phased out. So in 1984, the 10-watt WMNJ applied to the FCC for permission to upgrade to 100 watts.

Since that time, WMNJ has waged a battle to secure a loan in the ballpark of $20,000 to implement the increase in wattage. This year was just another chapter, as the imperiled station took steps to show not only that it was worth a power increase, but to prove that it could raise a sizable amount of money on its own. All of this came amid confusion as to whether WMNJ had yet been granted standing FCC permission for upgrade, and when, if ever, the station would be required to either increase its wattage or lose its license to operate.

If the station below Tolley Pit did become 100 watts, it would give WMNJ a Class A rank, and increase its potential listening audience to over one million people, a 350% increase over its current 50,000. That would make it the second largest FM station in Morris County.

In their quest for a loan, WMNJ pointed out some of the benefits of such a power increase — greater exposure of Drew and its sports program to the surrounding communities, a better tool for admissions in luring top students to the university, and the legitimization of non-music programming, such as news and forums for professors and other community members.

WMNJ claimed that it must be prepared to carry out a wattage increase when required by the FCC to do so, or it would lose its license and Drew would lose its radio station. Such a large amount of money would be needed for the upgrade because a new transmitter tower would have to be purchased and erected, and other changes would have to be made. All other obstacles in the way of a power increase had been cleared; Newark station WBGO had ceased complaining that a 100-watt WMNJ might infringe on its airspace, and a comprehensive engineering report on the change was already in the works.

The Extra Classroom Activities Board, which had granted WMNJ a loan a few years earlier for the purpose of installing state-of-the-art studios, still refused to give an additional loan for the wattage increase. The Board said that WMNJ must prove its worth as a community-oriented medium before such a hefty loan could be granted. WMNJ spent much of the year trying to work out a similar deal directly with the administration, which also questioned whether a university of this size needed such a large radio station, despite the fact that it was an upgrade-or-die situation.

Thus WMNJ set out to accomplish two things during the '86-'87 school year: first, to show its worth to the Drew and Madison communities, and second, to prove it could raise enough money in a year to pay back a potential loan. The station took many strides towards the first goal. Special music programming ranged from a feature presentation of Jeff Wayne's musical rendition of "War of the Worlds" to hour-long programs of international music from Italy and Brazil, among others. A weekly Sunday evening jazz show, "Fly By Night," also expanded the station's alternative music offerings. Sports programming proved especially successful, with live broadcasts of Drew Ranger basketball games and a weekly sports talk show. The last of these shows featured an interview with Bob Hill, the coach of the New York Knicks who had been fired just five days earlier. "Insight," a weekly interview show featuring in-studio guests and addressing a variety of contemporary issues, headed the list of news offerings.

WMNJ was also energetic in raising funds. WMNJ showed how desperate it needed money by selling its prized record collection at $1.00 a record. The spring sale grossed over $2,000. Perhaps the most promising method of raising money came with the sponsorship program. Area businesses agreed to "sponsor" certain shows for a set fee per week; disc jockeys read the spnsorships over the air several times during their show in exchange for the money. These sponsorships, nearly encroaching on the station's "non-commercial" format, also showed WMNJ's dire need for funds. Other notable fundraisers were a candy sale, and Madison and Chatham High weeks. During these weeks, students from the schools paid a small fee to be a disc jockey for a show.

As the school year came to a close, WMNJ found that progress towards securing a loan continued to move slowly. ECAB still would not budge. However, Dean of Students Jane Newman, who had assisted the station in becoming incorporated during the year, expressed optimism at working something out directly with the Board of Trustees during the next school year. And a new ECAB might reverse its opinion as well. WMNJ was hoping to offer 1986-87 as proof of its potential as a 100-watt radio station.

-Geoff Handy

ACADEMIC, RADIO, RELIGIOUS

IOTA PHI

Iota Phi is Drew's chapter of the **National German Honor Society, Delta Phi Alpha.** In '86-'87, they inducted their first eight members.

In the first year of their existence, Iota Phi was quite active. They co-sponsored a number of German films with English subtitles including a Fassbinder Film Festival ("moral turpitude at its best," according to President Ken Herron) with the German Department, and a Holocaust Film Festival with the Drew Jewish Student Organization. Iota Phi also sponsored several speakers ranging from 'hochinteressant' to 'stinklangweilig' and a foreign language career night.

The club sold Gummi-Bears as a fundraiser, managing to sell 15 cases of the sticky little monsters to unsuspecting members of the Drew community. Iota Phi was instrumental in the fight for a German house at Drew. Two of their members, Elizabeth "George" Ingraham and Kathy "Kommuterin" Woodruff, won Delta Phi Alpha merit scholarships this year for summer study abroad in Germany. Iota Phi members will undoubtedly be best remembered, however, for their vociferous exchange of colorful Teutonic expressions.

WMNJ

The 1986-87 academic year was another year of growth for "The Voice of Drew University." **WMNJ** took many strides to improve their on-air quality by incorporating many new special programs. The highlights of the innovative programming were: *Insight,* a forum for current issues; *Fly By Night,* an eight hour block of jazz music on Sunday evenings; and *Sports Rap,* WMNJ's very own attempt at intelligent sports reporting.

The station also undertook many fundraising events in order to raise money for the never ending battle to achieve 100 watts. The more memorable fundraisers were the used record sale, which lasted four days and raised over a thousand dollars, and Madison High Week, which featured students from the high school paying for air time.

A final coup for the station took place early one Saturday morning in April when Bob Hill, who had been fired as the Knicks head coach only five days earlier, appeared in the studio for an intense three hour interview with the sports staff.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Catholic Students' Association differs from most of the other religious clubs on campus in that they are not a worship-oriented organization. CSA is affiliated with and is guided by the Catholic Campus Ministry, a joint Drew-Fairleigh Dickinson operation that ministers to the religious needs of its members. CSA's goals extend beyond the concerns for ritual and ceremony to encompass their obligation of service to both the needs of the community and to the social needs of Catholic students here at Drew.

CSA's first big accomplishment in the '86-'87 year was the annual pumpkin sale, in which 700 pounds of pumpkins were sold to Drew students. CSA made several trips during the year to visit the elderly residents at Pine Acres Nursing Home, receiving guidance and help from Ms. Gina Yeager. In the spring, they raised money for the Morristown soup kitchen by running a "Guess the Weight of the Elephant" booth at the Media Blitz. CSA's biggest success of the year, however, was the first annual Mardi Gras party, when they ushered Lent in with a blast.